

## INVINCIBLE IGNORANCE.

what is invincible ignorance? This is a question more familiar to great cardinals than to me, and yet it keeps constantly turning up on ones mind. The late Dr. Norman Macleod once declared that a man who was an attendant occasionally at his church in Glasgow, had lived to be an old man, and yet positively he did not know the difference between Moses and Jesus Christ. And in the *Christian*, for April 6th, 92, I find the following: "But you know," said a minister to an old man who had been but lately converted, "Jesus can hear you when you speak to him as I speak to you." "Oh, but," the old man replied, "Jesus be dead!" "Dead," said the minister; "no, He is not dead now. He died for your sins; but He did not continue in the grave. He rose again, and is living now." The old man looked with astonishment, and said:

"Well, I have never heard it afore."

Yet, as the writer says, "the man had all his life known and repeated the Creed, but had never understood even the fact that our Lord rose again." Some may be disposed to doubt this statement but I have little doubt that it is only too true. Here in Christian England, with churches, Bibles, and creeds, we have an old man ignorant of the fact that Jesus who died lives for evermore. Is this invincible ignorance? It is certainly culpable ignorance. But who is to blame—the old man or his teachers?

—Australian Christian World.

## TEACHING TRUTHFULNESS.

There is an old adage which runs, "Be patient if you would have patient children." If I might be allowed, I would add, "Be truthful if you would have truthful children." A prominent clergyman once said: "Give me a man who, I know, tells the truth, and I may make something of him; but if there is no dependence to be placed upon his word, I am unable to do anything,—there is no foundation upon which to build."

Many persons think little ones do not see through deceptions, and often take advantage of their credulity. I prefer that a child should have confidence in me rather than love me: if I have the former, it is an easy matter to

win the latter; but, let the childish faith once be shaken or destroyed, and it will take many long weeks to rebuild it, when possibly it may have been scattered by a moment's carelessness.

*Mother's Nursery Guide.*

## "NOT ANSWERING AGAIN."

The Apostle Paul, in giving directions to a preacher of the gospel concerning various classes who had embraced the faith of Christ, said, "Exhort servants to be obedient to their own masters, and to please them well in all things, *not answering again*, not purloining, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of our God and Savior in all things." Titus ii. 9, 10.

One way then for servants to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour is to obey orders without dispute or question. A servant who knows more than his master, or has ideas of his own which he prefers to those of his master or mistress, is sure to find trouble and difficulty in his way. There can be but one head to a well-ordered home, or business, or establishment; and this is the reason why persons who are under authority should, as quietly as possible, fulfill the duties assigned them. They may not always have the wisest direction, but "orders are orders," and disobedience to orders does not often improve things. There may be times when suggestions and improvements are quite in order, and are acceptable; but the habit of "answering again," or contradicting, or objecting to orders when they are given, is fruitful of evil, and not fruitful of good.

The first thing a servant should learn is to do the work assigned him in a way that the master desires it to be done; and when it is found that he can do such things and do them rightly, and that he will obey orders without gainsaying, he is likely to be advanced to positions of greater responsibility; for those who have learned to obey may be trusted to give command; while those who contradict and answer again, and who always have the last word, and often make that a saucy word, are likely to find their stay short and their absence not regretted

## FORWARD! FORWARD!

The Lord's army is on the march. His bugle never sounds the retreat. Each moment is a crisis in human history; each day is a harvest for the past or a seed-time for the future. Defeats prepare us for victories, and failures teach us the methods of success. We must do more to-day than yesterday, and more to-morrow than to-day.

We cannot live in retrospect. An old experience, as mouldy as the bread of the Gibeonites, is not what we want to-day. We do not need to always commence our stories of God's love, with the stereotyped formula, "Forty years ago." We have later news from heaven, and are not dependent upon ancient history for records of God's providence and tokens of his blessing. The guiding cloud still marks the path for Israel to follow, and the flaming pillar still sheds its glory on the desert sands. The battle is as hot to-day as in ancient times, and the "armies of the aliens" are still put to flight by men of faith. God has heroes still, brave as Gideon, and as ready to break their pitchers and lift their war-cry as were the three hundred by whom the Lord discomfited Midian. The Lord yet lives. That captain who gave orders to Joshua upon the plain before Jericho is still in command, and directs the campaign. Let us wait his orders and fulfill his will.

The Lord's work moves on. The ranks are closing up. Sectarian strifes die out. Paul and Apollos and Cephas are finding their places, and Christ, the leader and commander of the people, guides the destinies of his Church, controls the changes of the world, and exercises that power which is given to him in heaven and earth.

Let every soldier of the Lord be alert and listen to the great Commander's voice. Let each man seek to know his own place and do his own work. Each moment is the meeting place of two eternities, and may be the deciding point for eternal destinies.

"Oh, watch and fight and pray;

The battle ne'er give o'er;

Renew it boldly every day;

And help divine implore."

There is nothing more eloquent in this world than a godly life.